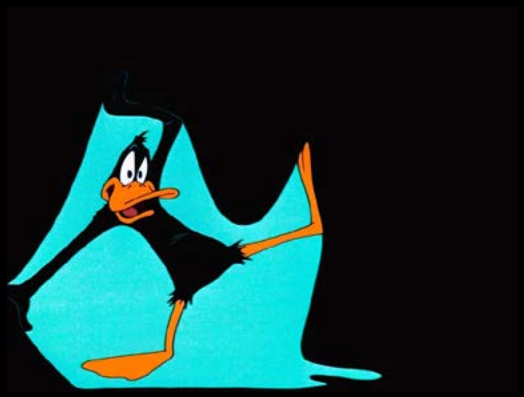
DAFFONI



A REMIX OF THE SHORTHAND CALLED "GRAFONI"

Daffoni is a variant of the system Grafoni, by Hitlofi.

Similar to Grafoni, Daffoni is lineal, mostly phonetic, mostly cursive, with only two sizes of characters.

However, this variant omits vowels, and introduces optional vowel symbols when necessary or when the spirits take you. I've also changed the shape of a few letter forms for clarity and ease.

…Comic Sans? Have you lost your marbles? Are you trying to punish me?

I'm dethpicable.

Why bother doing this? And what does Daffy Duck have anything to do with shorthand?

Why? I don't know. Maybe free will is an illusion and I'm just another tiny spring in a giant cosmic clock, slowly uncoiling until our inevitable demise.

Also, Grafoni just made perfect sense to me personally, but there were a few sticking points that I always stumbled over. This is my attempt to work around them and maybe other people would find it fun to try out.

Some fellow nerd out there made a My Little Pony themed variant of a multiple-hundreds-year-old shorthand system, and they called it Ponish, Just the fact that someone did that is incredible, kind of adorable, and hilarious. So in a way, Daffoni is par for the course, a continuation in that great tradition of making variants of antique shorthands themed after unrelated contemporary cartoons.

But I like Grafoni… What's the bright idea?

Here was the stuff I personally struggled with:

- » super long horizontal word forms took up a ton of space on the page. I tend to write in small pocket notebooks. A four letter word could become half a page long.
- » some of the letter forms just never felt particularly intuitive to my hand, namely the pairs f & v, and p & b
- » I always stumbled over accurately drawing the correct vowel letters, particularly when vowel sounds are blended. While I kept doing drills and coming up with my own pneumonic devices to make the vowels correct in writing, it just never felt natural.

My solution was to omit vowels entirely, like so many other systems, and add a vowel symbol above the word if I needed to. Omitting vowels saved a ton of space. Changing the letters I didn't like helped me with flow and clarity.

Don't your changes to the system make the shorthand slower and arguably worse?

Ha! Yeah, probably.

How to write Daffoni

If you're experienced with shorthand, you can just skip to the cheat sheet and you're off to the races.

If this is your first introduction to using any sort of shorthand, read on for a very short, *barely* adequate primer.

Daffoni is a mostly phonetic system, so you skip the silent letters and only write the spoken letters.

> *Example 1: "would"*
>
> *Don't write the letter L, and don't write the vowels. You'd write: "wd".*

Unlike some systems, don't let me stop you from including letters for the sake of your own clarity, already breaking the first rule.

> *Example 2: "How much wood would a woodchuck chuck…"*
>
> *If you want to be absolutely 10,000% sure that "wood" and "would" are distinct, feel free to add what you need. Maybe: "wd" & "wld".*
>
> *Sure, the L sound isn't spoken, but the words are distinct. Whatever works for you shall be the extent of the law.*

Letters are written on a baseline, like standard longhand on a typical lined notebook page. Some letters descend below the baseline, like the tail of a cursive "j".

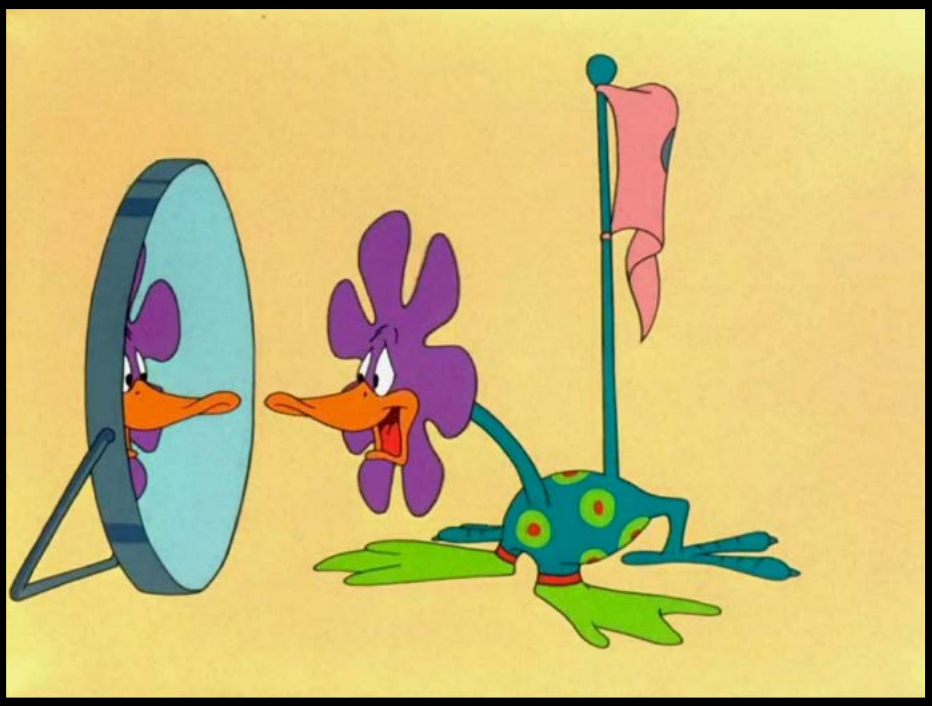
Symbols represent vowels. They're written above the word, like accent marks, Vowel symbols are not required, but helps with legibility and reading cold. Nothing is required, really.

The Cheat Sheet

	LETTER	SOUND	EXAMPLE
ABOVE LINE	ᴅ, ᴅ	p, b	pig, big
	ʌ, ʌ	c, s, z	cite, zit
	ɩ, ɩ	t, d	tie, die
	ɾ, ɾ	r, l	row, low
	ɕ, ɕ	c, k, g	core, gore
BELOW LINE	v, V	f, v	fat, vat
	ʊ	h	hat
	o, ɣ, ɣ	m, n, ng	mining
	ʋ, ʋ	sh, sz	she, Asia
	w	w	win
VOWELS	^ a	ᵘ u	
	- e, y	ᵃᵘ ou, ow	
	• i	ʌ ay	
	° o		

"Rules"

- Write vowel symbols above the word.
- Stay on the line. It'll help keep the letters distinct.
- Make the tall letters Tall!
- Capital letters for proper nouns can be individually underlined, or double underlined.
- Circle any grammatical marks to distinguish them.
- Don't forget to have fun!



Tips

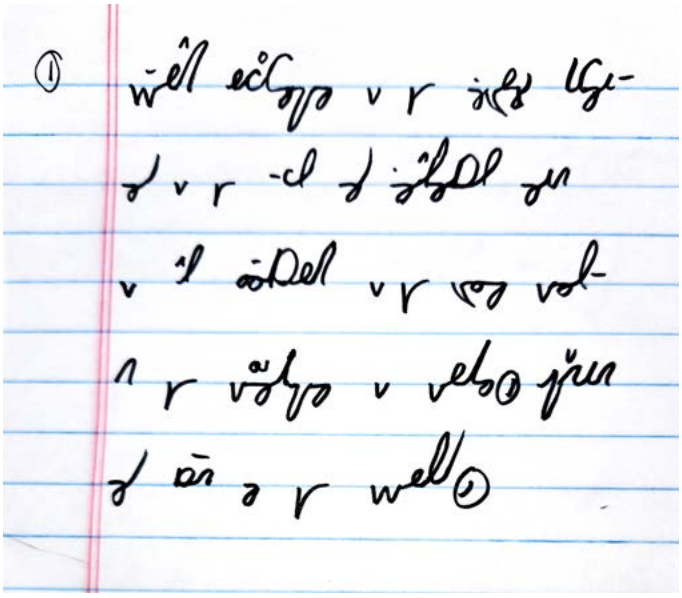
Reducing strokes in word: You don't have to write the first stroke of the first letter, nor do you have to write the last stroke of the last letter.

When to use vowel symbols:
Context will usually allow you to read the word back, however, I personally like a good vowel here and there to make the word crystal clear. Most of the time you don't need them, but when you do, add the symbols above the word, roughly around where the letter would be in the word.

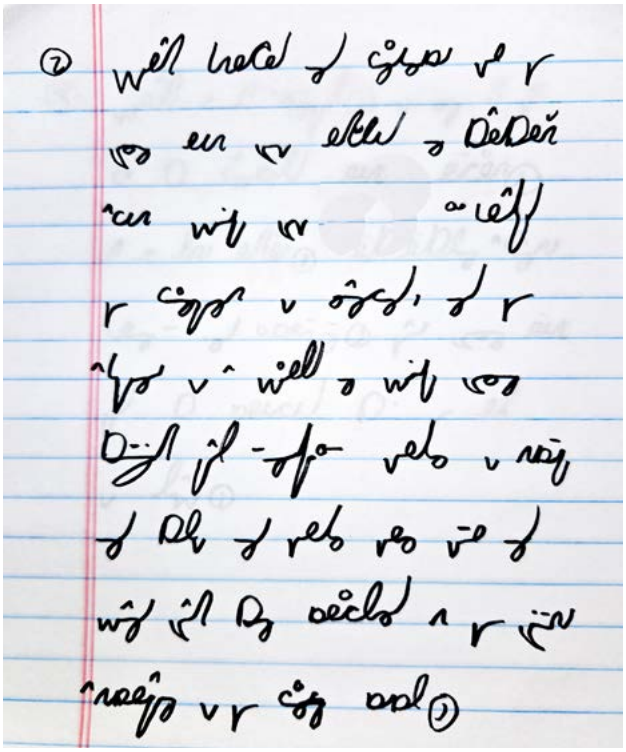
There are lots of vowel sounds. Instead of having a unique symbol for all of them to memorize, I write a symbol representing the English roman letter that would be used, or, whatever vowel symbol/letter would make the most sense to me later.

Writing Sample

Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Preamble (numbered for reference)

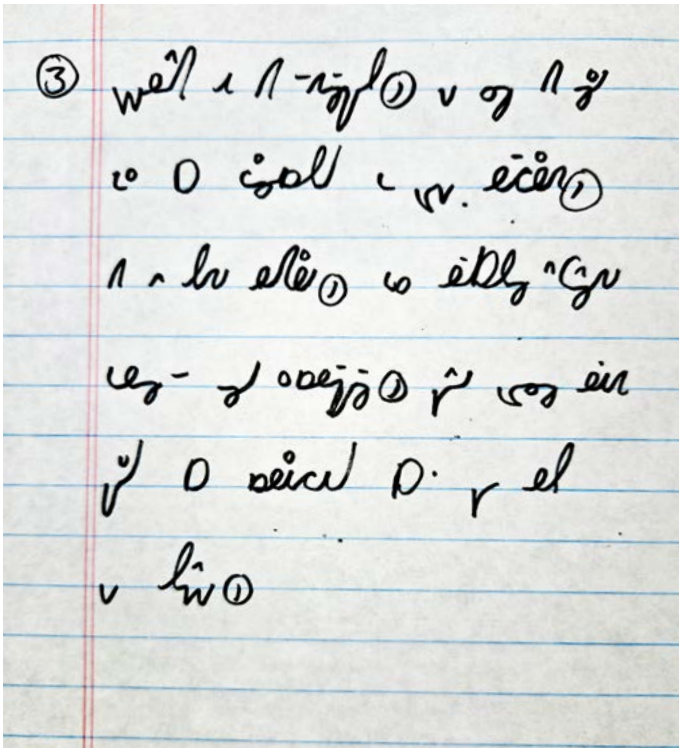


Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

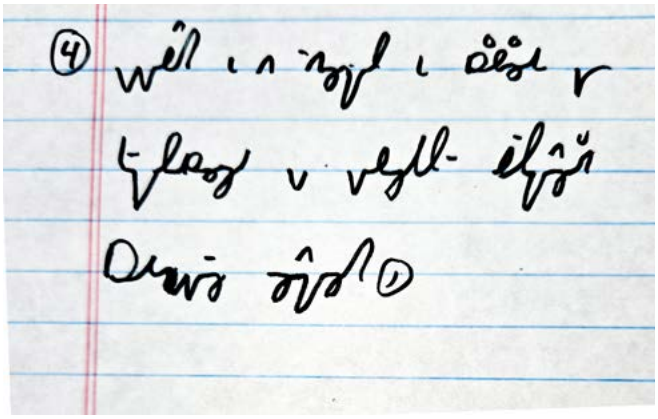


Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Writing Sample

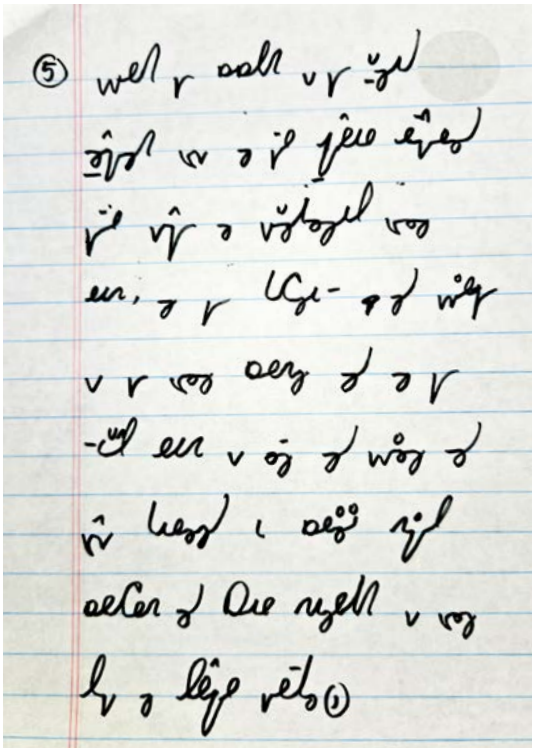


Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

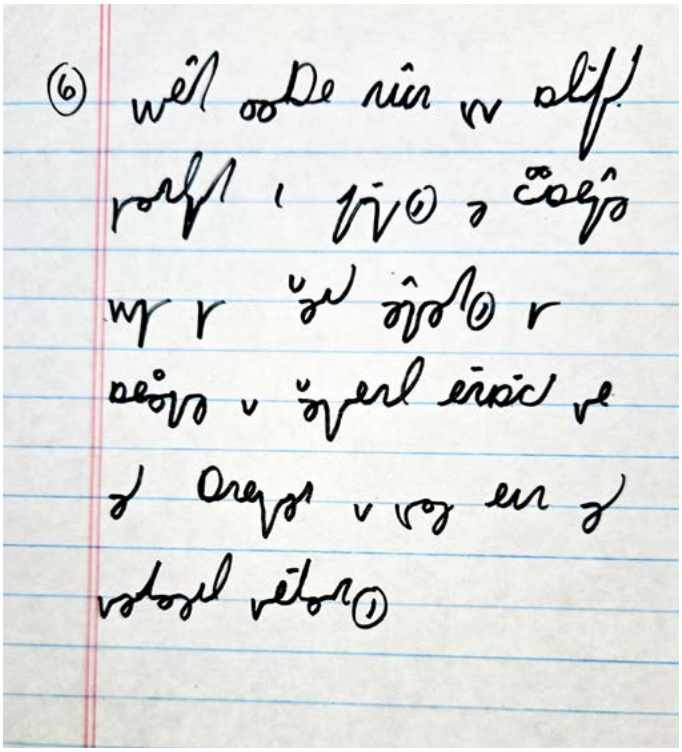


Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Writing Sample

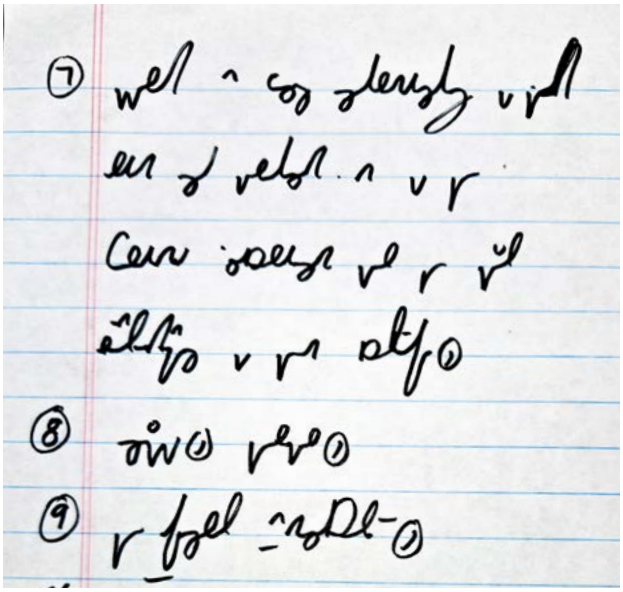


Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,



Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

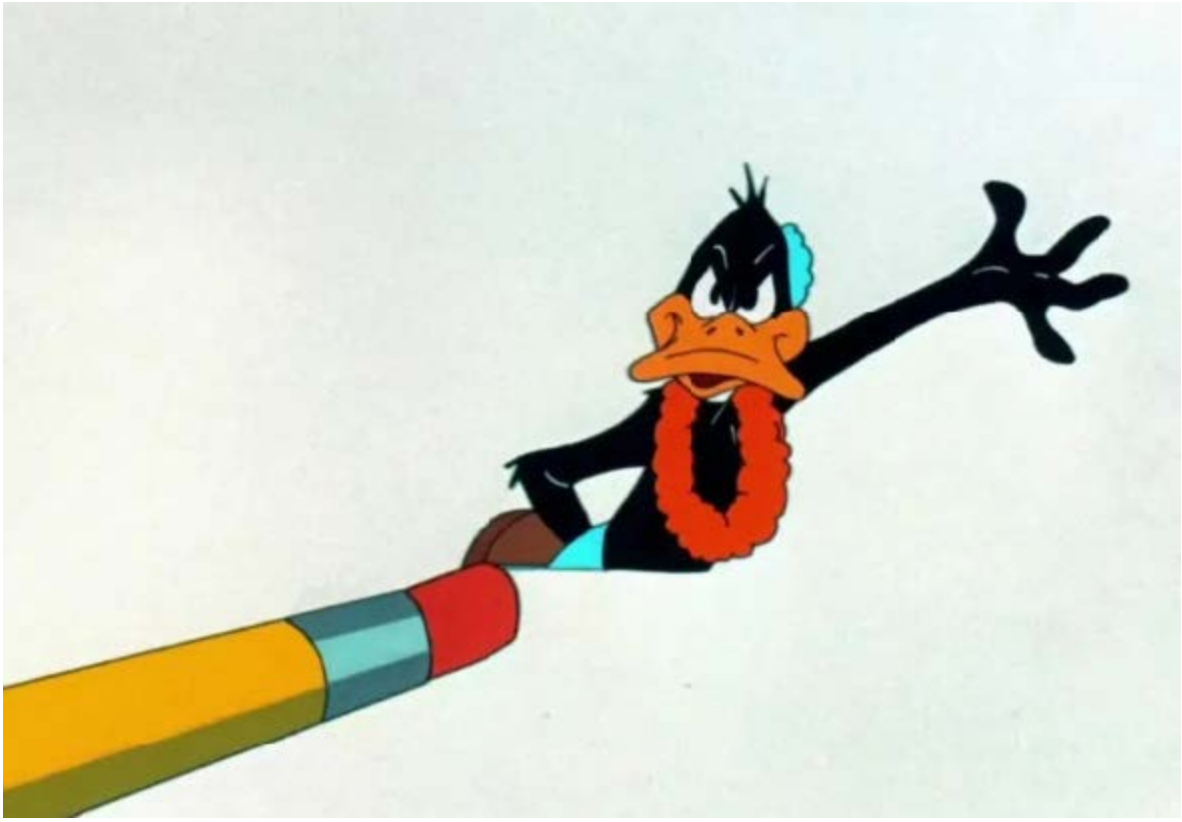
Writing Sample



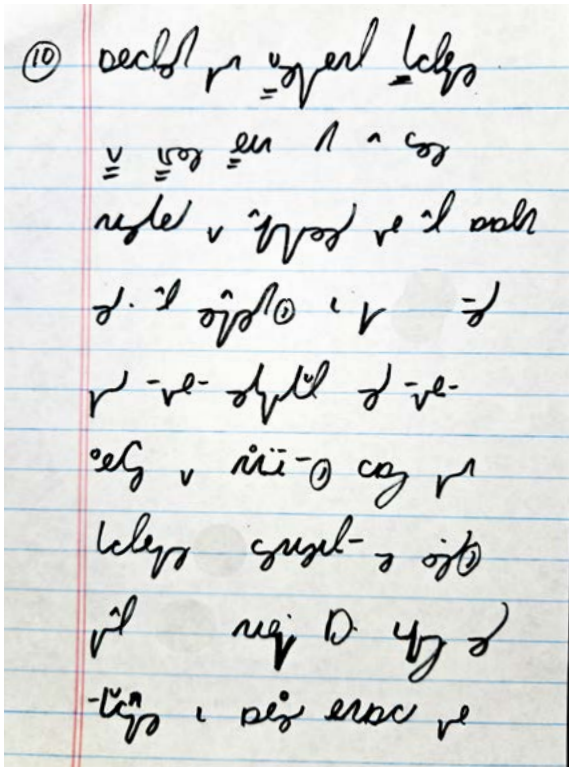
Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore,

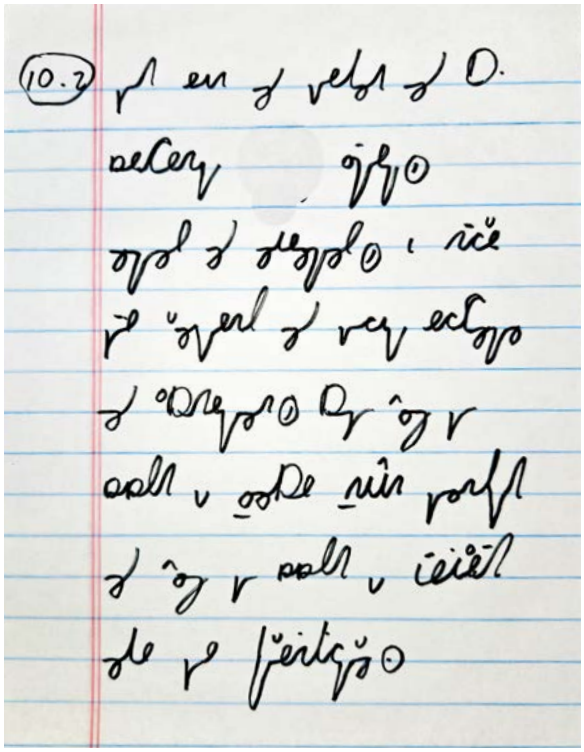
The General Assembly,



Writing Sample



Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for



these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

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